

February 11, 2014

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on February 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cohen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration via email:

Not the maker of plans or promises, but rather the one who offers faithful service in small matters. This is the person who is most likely to achieve what is good and lasting.

Goethe

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of February 11, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Virobik requested that the last paragraph under Transportation, concerning the Tillim Senior Citizens Center, on page 3, be moved to first paragraph under Community Programs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, there was a discussion of the topic of internet accessibility for Focal Point and the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center that had been included in the January Commission meeting.

Commissioner Virobik presented the history and mission of Focal Point on Aging to the two new Commissioners: Commissioners Cohen and Miranda.

Commissioner Cohen noted that he was familiar with the Focal Point organization in Florida.

MOTION: Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of January 14, 2014, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Councilwoman Ashcraft

Councilman Weideman

Commissioner Herring, Traffic Commission

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe, Community Services Department

Commissioner Cohen introduced himself to the Commission and noted that he lived at New Horizons and had served on the Community Services Commission. He stated that he had been a mortgage banker and now volunteered at New Horizons.

Commissioner Miranda introduced himself to the Commission and stated that he had moved to California from Montana. He noted that he had served on the Cultural Arts Commission and he had been in the health care industry for 30 years.

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Home Town Heroes Program would be ending soon and requested that the Commissioners notify anyone that they think might still be interested in participating.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the construction on the new sports fields was on time and that the progression of the project was viewable online.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Police Chief Neu had retired and that new Commissioners had been appointed. She added that the Commissioner Appreciation banquet had been a very enjoyable event.

B. Housing

Chairperson K. Davis presented an article from the Associated Press on caregivers getting help from digital devices and apps, such as the Pillbox Program and GPS tracking programs.

Commissioner Virobik reported that life alert systems had the ability to extend coverage to travel outside of the home.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik noted that the California Assembly and Senate Human Services Committees were holding a joint meeting on assisted living facilities in California, due to the media scrutiny regarding the lack of regulatory oversight. She added that the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) had proposed several bills: an online consumer information system, complaint and enforcement information on each facility, unannounced inspections of facilities, increased penalties for violations, a ban on admissions to facilities with probability of harm, and increased training and qualifications requirements for staff and administrators.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Transit Department would ask the Council this month: to authorize the purchase of bus engines, to approve a contract amendment for an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system, which would provide exact locations and real time arrival information for buses and to approve an agreement for consulting work for the Rapid Bus Signal Priority System, which would hold the traffic signal to allow a bus to clear the intersection.

Chairperson K. Davis discussed the Dial a Ride Taxi program and the steps to qualify for and buy the vouchers.

There was a discussion on Access Paratransit and the steps to qualify for the program.

E. Community Programs

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the AARP Tax-Aide for Seniors Program had begun on February 1 and that the Program had prepared a record number of 245 returns in the first week alone.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the Youth Council had coordinated a very successful 4th Annual Talent show at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center. Chairperson K. Davis stated that she had invited the talent show participants to apply for the Woman's Club Art Scholarship.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced the schedule for the Torrance Travelers tours and noted that registration would begin on February 28. The tours are: Santa Barbara Orchid Festival, S'Wonderful, the Fillmore and Western Railway, Solvang and the Richard Nixon Presidential Library. She noted that there would be a bidding process (RFP) for the next group of tours.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the 42nd Annual Spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Torrance Firefighter's Association would be on March 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreational Center, with an adult fee of \$6 and a child's fee of \$4. She added that the proceeds would benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Chairperson K. Davis added that the Woman's Club would be providing assistance and desserts for the event.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino stated that on February 22 at 9:30 a.m., Torrance Police would sponsor a Sweat for a Cause workout at the Batting Cages, in support of recently retired Chief John Neu's wife, Michelle, who is fighting leukemia. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the \$15 donations would go to The Leukemia Society.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik explained the various types of calls that Focal Point received to new Commissioners Cohen and Miranda. She noted that the documented calls were calls that required a request and a follow-up. She stated that the percentages reported for the documented calls were based on the top 3 categories only and did not necessarily add up to 100%.

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the months of:

December 2013

Total number of documented calls: 34	Total number of callbacks: 8
Miscellaneous calls: 42	Total number of walk-ins: 15
Total number of calls received: 76	

Of the documented calls:

42.1% were for transportation	32.6% were for housing
16% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point had a table at the *Seniors, Don't Be Scammed* lecture, sponsored by the Police Department.

January 2014

Total number of documented calls: 57	Total number of callbacks: 11
Miscellaneous calls: 53	Total number of walk-ins: 5
Total number of calls received: 110	

Of the documented calls:

41% were for transportation	35.3% were for housing
20.6% were for in home services	

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be a *Seniors, Don't Be Scammed* lecture on March 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

There was a discussion of an increase in burglaries in Torrance.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino distributed flyers for the "See Something, Say Something" Police Department Program and a map of recent single-family burglaries in North Torrance between December 1, 2013 and January 20, 2014.

Chairperson K. Davis discussed the assignment of topics from the agenda list of Senior Citizens Concerns and suggested that Commissioners Cohen and Miranda consider the topics of Housing or Elder Abuse and Fraud, but noted that they were welcome to select any topic in particular, as well as contribute to all topics in general.

10. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR CITY PARKS

This item was considered out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe, Community Services Department, presented the results of the Park Services Division Customer Satisfaction Surveys. He noted that the Park Services Division had conducted the surveys in order to understand the public's view of the local City Parks and to examine the impact of five years of budget cuts.

He stated that there had been 76 respondents and that the respondents had focused on their local park. He added that the respondents' ranking of their most important park amenities correlated with the Park Services staff ranking of amenities.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe reported that 100% of respondents felt that their parks were safe. He noted that due to the public's satisfaction with park safety, funds that had been allocated to increase security had been able to be reallocated to make other improvements in the parks.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that the overall satisfaction score of 5.8 out of 7 was an excellent baseline score and added that the next phase of the program would be process improvement.

Responding to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that there was a budget item before City Council to use Park Rangers to staff the new sports field, as well as some part time recreation staff. He noted that the artificial turf in the

field required that particular rules would need to be followed and enforced. He added that a security camera had been installed and that the field would be locked at night. He reported that the field would be available on a rental basis only, with fees starting at \$100 per hour per field.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miranda, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that there was a long term plan to put a skate park at Wilson Park.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that the parks were open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and noted that some of the park restrooms operated with push bars on time locks. He reported that there was little open land that was designated for parks in the City, but that the City had recently developed some "pocket" parks.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that there was no current plan for the open land on Elm Avenue.

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe thanked the Commission for its time.

8. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik had been in contact with Executive Director Kitabayashi of the Westchester Playa Village and had discussed becoming a part of their program. She noted that she would have a report for the next meeting.

9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson K. Davis stated that May was Older Americans month and that all nominees approved by the Commission would be recognized at a City Council meeting on the second Tuesday in May and that one of the nominees would be selected to also receive Los Angeles County recognition.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand added that there could be multiple nominees for the City honor, but that only one of the nominees would go to the County recognition ceremony. She noted that for the County, the age requirement of the nominee was 65+, but that the age requirement was 50+ for Torrance. She explained that the recognition was for volunteer efforts only, not for paid work.

Chairperson K. Davis distributed information on her nominees: Robert J. Chiota and Frances Glauber.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would email the Commission the list of past winners. She noted that all submitted nominees would need to be voted on at the March meeting.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would schedule the Fire Department to attend a future meeting to discuss 911 calls and any new regulations that might affect seniors.

Chairperson K. Davis read a thank you note from Former Commissioner Robelotto.

Chairperson K. Davis announced an award luncheon hosted by the Kiwanis Club on February 20 at the Double Tree. She stated that she would email the information to the Commission and requested that the Commissioners let her know if they were able to attend.

Chairperson K. Davis welcomed Commissioners Cohen and Miranda again and thanked them for joining the Commission on Aging.

Commissioners Kraemer announced that the Daily Breeze would have a special senior section in the Sunday edition on February 16.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as amended March 11, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
